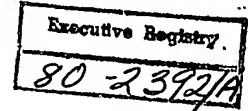


The Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505



20 November 1980

Dear Mr. Kane,

Thanks for your letter of October 23 with its interesting enclosures. I had not known of your specific proposal for a new form of sea-based tactical air. I'm very impressed by it.

Assuming FY 82 funding at the required level, what is the IOC of the aircraft system? How does the radar performance in the AEW mode compare with the E-2C? Have you a concept of how this aircraft would operate to frustrate a Backfire attack on any force if the Backfire were to launch an air-to-surface missile from as far away as 200 miles? (Assuming threat axis is known.)

Have you looked at an ability to launch small battlefield photo and sigint sensors? It seems to me with relay back to the mother ship where there could be a full processing center it should be possible to launch air-to-surface missiles against even moving targets in a land battle situation. Similarly with data relay from sonabuys and processing aboard ship, I would think this aircraft could replace the LAMPS.

Again, my thanks.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

Mr. Thomas J. Kane, Jr.
Vice President-Business Development
Grumman Aerospace Corporation
Bethpage, New York 11714

Prepared by DCI

Distr: Orig - Addressee
1 - O/DCL w/Incoming Ltr & Encl.
1 - [redacted] w/Incoming Ltr only.
1 - ER w/Incoming Ltr only

STAT